

Message Text

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17

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2030

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 0079

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ASEC GR US

SUBJ: ELEFROTYPYIA ATTACK AGAINST AMBASSADOR KUBISCH

1. GREEK PRESS HAS CONTINUED TO REPORT CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING AND DEVELOPMENTS LINKED TO WELCH'S ASSASSINATION IN A GROSSLY EXAGGERATED AND HIGHLY IRRESPONSIBLE MANNER. WORST NEWSPAPER IN TERMS OF WILDNESS OF ITS CHARGES AND SPECULATIONS HAS BEEN THE NEWEST BIG CIRCULATION DAILY ON THE ATHENS SCENE, AFTERNOON ELEFROTYPYIA, WHICH BEGAN PUBLICATION A FEW MONTHS AGO AND WHICH HAS GENERALLY FOLLOWED A STRONGLY ANTI-U.S. LINE. OVER THE PAST SIXTY DAYS OR SO ELEFROTYPYIA HAS ALSO MOUNTED A MAJOR CAMPAIGN AGAINST CIA AND FROM TIME TO TIME HAS RUN SOME CRITICAL COMMENTARY OF ONE KIND OR ANOTHER ABOUT AMBASSADOR KUBISCH.

2. AS A RESULT OF REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF GOVERNMENT PROSECUTOR'S BAN ON STORIES CONCERNING GOVERNMENT'S INVESTIGATION OF WELCH'S MURDER, IT WAS REPORTED LAST NIGHT THAT GOG HAS DECIDED TO PROSECUTE FOUR NEWSPAPERS: AKROPOLIS, KATHIMERINI, ELEFROTYPYIA AND TO VIA.

3. IN AFTERNOON EDITION JANUARY 5 OF ELEFROTYPYIA, A MAJOR AND SLANDEROUS ATTACK WAS MADE AGAINST AMBASSADOR KUBISCH. THE FRONT PAGE STORY DISCUSSED AN ALLEGED

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"DIABOLICAL KISSINGER PLOT" TO DEFLECT THE INVESTIGATION

OF WELCH'S MURDER IN GREECE TOWARD GREEK SUSPECTS SO THAT THE IMPRESSION THE ASSASSINATION WAS PURELY AN AMERICAN AFFAIR AMONG SPIES WILL DISAPPEAR. A PERSONAL ASSISTANT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER SUPPOSEDLY NAMED STEVE LEIGHTON WAS SAID TO HAVE COME TO ATHENS TO SET THE PLOT IN MOTION.

4. ABUTTING THIS STORY WAS SMALL ITEM DRAWING ATTENTION TO A FURTHER STORY CONCERNING AMBASSADOR KUBISCH WHICH APPEARED ON PAGE 7 OF ELEFTherOTYPIA. THE STORY ON THE AMBASSADOR, WHICH WAS CHARACTERIZED AS THE FIRST OF A SERIES, HAD AS ITS CENTRAL THEME A DESCRIPTION OF AMBASSADOR'S "TRUE IDENTITY" AND ASSERTED THAT HE "OWES HIS CAREER TO THE CIA IN WHICH HE WAS A DYNAMIC AND SUCCESSFUL AGENT IN HIS YOUNGER AGE" AND THAT HE WAS SELECTED FOR ASSIGNMENT IN GREECE TO OVERSEE AND IMPLEMENT VARIOUS UNDERCOVER USG AND CIA SCHEMES. ARTICLE STATES THAT AMBASSADOR KUBISCH HAD BEEN AN IMPORTANT MEMBER OF FORTY COMMITTEE IN WASHINGTON AND NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AND HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN OVERSEEING THE COUP AGAINST ALLENDE IN CHILE. STORY IS FULL OF MANY LIES, HALF-TRUTHS, AND MISREPRESENTATIONS.

5. PRIME MINISTR CARAMANLIS' UNDER SECRETARY FOR PRESS AND INFORMATION LAMBRIAS TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR AFTER ELEFTherOTYPIA STORY APPEARED TO SAY THAT CARAMANLIS AND GOG AUTHORITIES WERE "FURIOUS" ABOUT THIS OUTRAGEOUS ARTICLE AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO PROSECUTE THE AUTHOR AND THE NEWSPAPER IF THE AMBASSADOR WISHED TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL COMPLAINT AS PROVIDED BY THE GREEK PENAL CODE. IF NOT, CARAMANLIS AND LABRIAS URGED THAT EMBASSY ISSUE BRIEF STATEMENT CHARACTERIZING ELEFTherOTYPIA'S ARTICLE AS FULL OF LIES AND MISREPRESENTATIONS, FOLLOWING WHICH THE GOG WOULD HAVE ITS HAND GREATLY STRENGTHENED IN DEALING WITH ELEFTherOTYPIA MANAGEMENT AND STAFF. LAMBRIAS SAID THE GOG ALSO INTENDED TO ISSUE A STRONGLY-WORDED STATEMENT ON THE ELEFTherOTYPIA ARTICLE.

6. WHILE NOT RULING OUT POSSIBILITY OF LODGING SOME FORM OF OFFICIAL COMPLAINT WHICH COULD PRMIT SUBSEQUENT PROSECUTION OF ARTICLE'S AUTHOR AND ELEFTherOTYPIA, EMBASSY'S CONFIDENTIAL

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PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT IS THAT SUCH A TRIAL WOULD ONLY PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF ELEFTherOTYPIA'S KIND OF JOURNALISM, INCREASE ITS CIRCULATION AND WOULD NOT BE IN THE U.S. INTEREST. HOWEVER, EMBASSY HAS DECIDED TO ISSUE AN APPROPRIATE STATEMENT AND AMBASSADOR HAS WORKED OUT THE FOLLOWING TEXT WITH GOG AUTHORITIES AND AUTHORIZED IT FOR RELEASE TODAY JANUARY 6:

7. BEGIN TEXT: THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS NOTED AN ARTICLE IN AN AFTERNOON ATHENS NEWS-PAPER CONCERNING THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN GREECE AND WISHES TO STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT THE ARTICLE IS FULL OF LIES AND MISREPRESENTATIONS. THE EMBASSY IS GREATLY SADDENED TO SEE SUCH A SLANDEROUS AND UNTRUE PIECE OF JOURNALISM IN A GREEK NEWSPAPER, WHICH IT WILL NOT DIGNIFY WITH FURTHER COMMENT. END TEXT. KUBISCH

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